

May 2023

To: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center

I am writing on behalf of Forest River to support the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) in Sheridan, Oregon, and its application to the legislature for \$12 million in construction funds.

Forest River wholeheartedly supports the Barbara Roberts CTEC Development Team and Sheridan School District in the creation of a regional, rural Career Technical Education Center. Roberts CTEC provides several programs of study: *Fire Science; Automotive and Heavy Equipment - Truck, Logistics & Diesel Mechanics; Manufacturing Technology; Agribusiness-Sustainable Plant Science and Technology.*

Partnerships representing groups of historically marginalized students, along with organizations specializing in workforce development, educational institutions, and career-related industries expand the network of overall support for CTE program development. Additionally, strong partnerships align the educational system with industry, leading to a well-prepared workforce. In contributing to this effort, we are investing in the students living in the West Valley region and supporting their CTE learning experience. Our contribution will be in the form of continued support that will expand throughout implementation of the project.

The Barbara Roberts CTEC project has garnered universal community support and bridges the urban-rural divide by directly addressing needs of Rural Workforce Development and Education. It will serve as proof of concept for future funding of similar projects, leading to a stronger Oregon. We understand that Barbara Roberts CTEC will prepare our future workforce for a living wage, high-demand jobs in local industry.

Now is the time to invest in Rural Oregon through Career Technical Education. The Oregon Legislature now has the opportunity to take a lead role in the revitalization of our economy, through a \$12 million commitment to this shovel-ready project. Barbara Roberts CTEC will connect our community and lift the lives of our young people. We respectfully request that the Oregon Legislature join us in this vision for generational impact and commit \$12 million to the development of the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Center.

Thank you for your consideration.

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